Author's response to reviews

Title: The Genetic Study of three Population Microisolates in South Tyrol (MICROS): study design and epidemiological perspectives

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Thank you for accepting our manuscript for publication in *BMC Medical Genetics*. We submit here the last version of the article where we have fixed a few grammatical mistakes, added one affiliation for one of the authors, and modified the beginning of the results section, including what the reviewer no. 3 was asking as discretionary revision. We report below the point-by-point response to this reviewer.

With the best regards

Cristian Pattaro (on behalf of all the coauthors)

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**Response to Reviewer no. 3**

Q

*Some minor questions I have still can be explained by experimental design of the authors used. For instance, because the authors studied three different villages, from population genetics view could be interesting to evaluate coefficients of inbreeding (and kinship) in every village separately instead summarizing for all them together that resulted a higher mean values than SD (mean inbreeding coefficient = 0.000565, SD= 0.004441 (and for kinship mean= 0.001777, sd=0.014439).*

R

We modified the paragraph including inbreeding and kinship coefficients separately by village.

Q

*I appreciate that the authors cited in revised version of their manuscript one of my research group publication about genetic epidemiology study in different genetic isolates. But more appropriate to their current research article could be another our publications in J.Genomics, 2007, 89:167-177(UK) and AJMG/NPG, 2006, 132B:76-84.*

R

We substituted the old reference with the new one Bulayeva et al. Genomics 2007. We did not report the other suggested reference because our rule was to cite one article per study population.